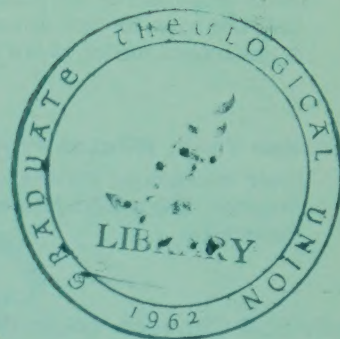


THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR



World

SUMMER 1981



"Let us run with perseverance the race of life that is set before us." Hebrews 12:1

Youth
Witness
Winners



THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD

THE VOICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR

Cover

The drawing used on the cover and several drawings used throughout this issue of THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD are taken from the greeting cards developed by the young people of the Church of the Redeemer in Royal Oak, Michigan, for their witness project. The drawings do not necessarily relate to the subject matter where they appear.

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This article is the text of a message delivered by Artis Damien Dubose at the First Baptist Church of Georgetown, Washington, DC, on Youth Sunday, January 25, 1981. It also was entered in the 1981 Christian Youth Witness Program.

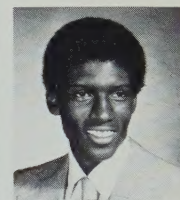
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Volume 96

Editor

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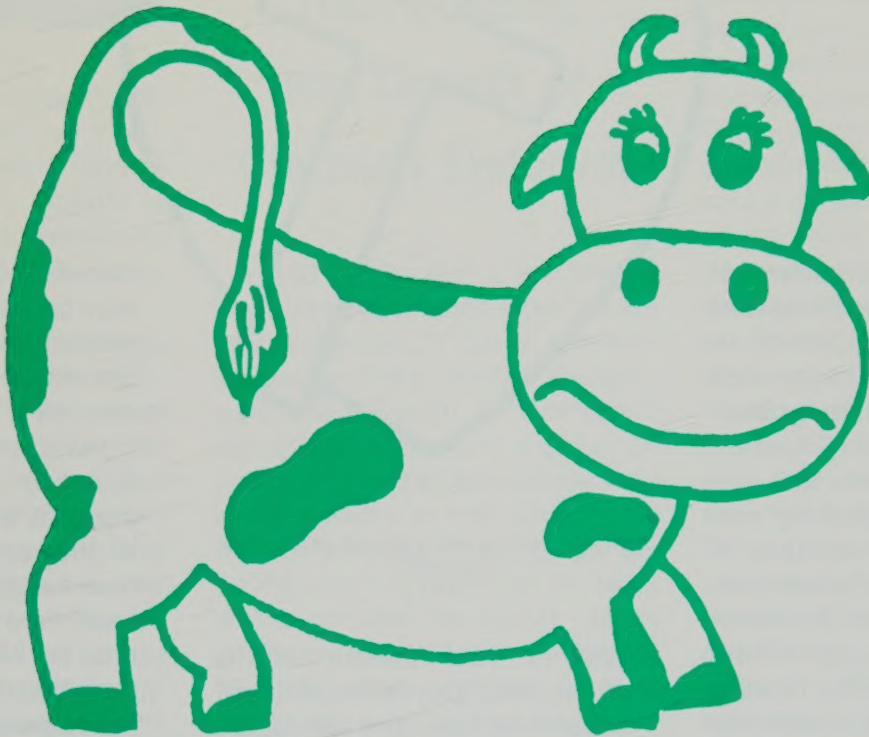
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Summer 1981

Christian Youth Witness

Albert H. Diebold Awards

1981



He makes me lie down in green pastures. Psalm 23:2

Winning youth and Christian Endeavor societies in the 1981 Christian Youth Witness Program sponsored by the International Society of Christian Endeavor have been announced by Rev. Charles W. Barner, general secretary.

The Albert H. Diebold Awards, in addition to cash and grants to attend the Festival of Hope Christian Endeavor Convention in Portland, Maine, August 12-16, 1981, include an attractive plaque to all winners, plus honor certificates to all other qualified entrants. The awards were presented to recipients in Portland on August 12.

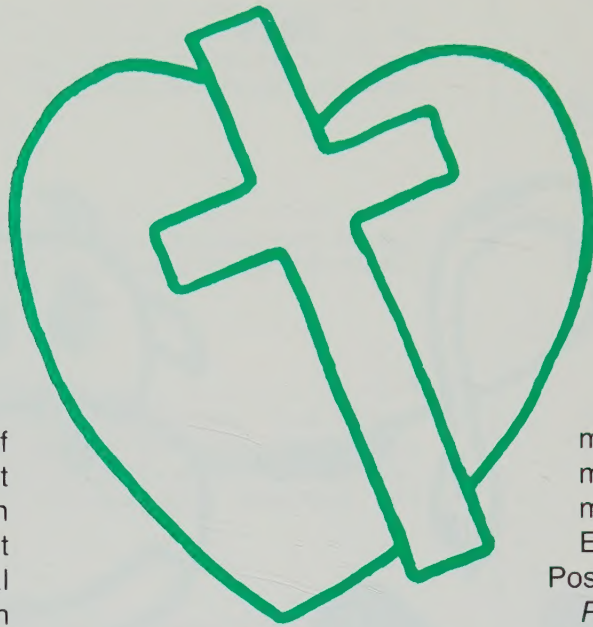
Individual winners entered an activity, editorial, talk, poster, black and white photograph, or a cartoon. Entries had to be developed, written, or released between April 1, 1980 and February 15, 1981, and were judged on the basis of originality, excellence of literary or art form used and their Christian witness to the community.

Societies sponsored and reported Christian witness projects carried out between April 1, 1980 and February 15, 1981. Each activity was evaluated on the basis of group participation, goals established and achieved and its Christian witness to the community.

Through the generous financial support of the Diebold Foundation, this continuing program has been made possible for the past 30 years. The 1981 Program marks the 25th year that the awards have been named in honor of the late Albert H. Diebold, a Christian layman of New York City.

Judges for this year's entries were: Margaret Clarkson, president of the Canadian Christian Endeavor Union; Mrs. Weston Sararus, Secretary of the Canadian Christian Endeavor Union; and Rev. A. Ward Woolner, minister of the United Brethren in Christ Church, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada.

INDIVIDUAL WINNERS



Teresa Dale Huff, president of the Christian Endeavor Society at Northport Christian Church in Newport, Tennessee, is the first place winner in the individual category of the 1981 Christian Youth Witness Program.

Teresa took first place by preparing and rotating posters to seven business places in her community during Christian Endeavor Week January 26 through February 2, 1981. She began by reading through the Bible and selecting appropriate scripture verses. After much prayer she took pictures which related to the Bible verses. Each picture was placed on colored paper and mounted on poster board. Local merchants were contacted and permission was secured to display the posters.

Teresa presented a program on her poster project in her home church during youth week. She also included information on her poster witness with a Christian Endeavor news release which was carried in local newspapers.

Here is a listing of some of the posters and the subject matter:

Poster #1—

Picture: a pig in a pig sty.

Scripture: "Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither

Christ showed us the greatest example of friendship

cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you." Matthew 7:6

Poster #2—

Picture: an ox in pasture.

Scripture: "Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith." Proverbs 15:17

Poster #3—

Picture: a horse in pasture.

Scripture: "Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee." Psalms 32:9.

Poster #4—

Picture: a small child surrounded by cuddly toys.

Scripture: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first com-

mandment with promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth." Ephesians 6:1-3

Poster #5—

Picture: a cemetery.

Scripture: "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." John 5:28-29

Poster #6—

Picture: a church building.

Scripture: "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is: but exhorting one another: and so much more, as ye see the day approaching." Hebrews 10:25.

Poster #7—

Picture: a stop sign.

Scripture: "Ask thee a sign of the Lord thy God; ask it either in the depth, or in the height above." Isaiah 7:11

Of her poster project Teresa says, "I prepared and distributed the photograph posters in order to bring other people to Christ, and introduce them to Jesus my Savior and prepare them for eternal life."



Cathy Beagle

The second place winner in the individual category of the 1981 Christian Youth Witness Program is 19 year old Cathy Beagle a member of the New Cumberland Christian Church, New Cumberland, West Virginia.

Cathy had a threefold witness which included her service in maintaining a church library, teaching in the Teeny Church and writing an essay on the founding of Christian Endeavor. Pastor Raymond A. Roberts writes concerning the church library, "Cathy has handled the cataloging of all of our volumes as well as the week to week maintenance and lending of books. Though our library is small, Cathy has worked tirelessly to form the solid foundation that a church library needs. In her selection of new books for purchase, and soliciting for out of print volumes, she has used great wisdom and spiritual judgment."

Donna Straight, president of the West Virginia Christian Endeavor Union, writes; One of the services Cathy does for Jesus Christ is being the teacher of our Teeny Church program. This is a program for children 4 to 7 years of age. She teaches them stories from the Bible; then tells them how this scripture relates to them at their age . . . Cathy serves Jesus Christ and witnesses for Him in many ways, but to me this is one of much importance, leading young people to Christ and His Church.

The following essay on the founding of Christian Endeavor was written for an English composition class at West Virginia Northern Community College. It was also used as a Sunday evening Christian Endeavor talk, and was printed in the West Virginia Christian Endeavor Convention program.

The Founding and Growth of Christian Endeavor

In 1881, Francis E. Clark started an organization that would soon span the globe. Dr. Clark, who was the pastor of the Williston Congregational Church in Portland, Maine, wished to form a group for young people that would train them to be workers in their church. He wanted to teach them to be devoted and outspoken in their efforts to work for Christ. Many efforts by the Williston congregation and other congregations to form such a group had failed. Dr. Clark felt they had failed because "they did not go far enough in developing an all-around symmetrical Christian character." They needed a group with direct purpose and specific rule to make sure that the purpose was not changed or forgotten over the years. Dr. Clark was heartily in favor of the Boy Scouts and similar organizations, "but he felt that something more is needed in a church for training young Christians."

Because of this need, on February 2, 1881, Dr. Clark formed a young people's group which he called "Williston Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor". This society was different from others that had been started because its greatest importance was

its religious features. Each member of that early society in Williston promised to attend and take some part in each meeting, other than singing. Dr. Clark presented to the young people his purpose which was "to promote an earnest Christian life among its members, to increase their mutual acquaintance and to make them more useful in the service of God."

After the young people of the congregation had signed the new constitution, Mr. Granville Staples was installed as the first president and four committees were formed. The first committee was the Look-out committee which sought out new members and informed them of the rules of the organization. The second committee formed was the Prayer-Meeting committee which was in charge of lining up leaders and topics for each of the meetings. Another committee was the Social committee which made sure that all the young people at the meetings knew each other. The last committee, the Music committee, found out the musical talents of the young people and used them.

During Christian Endeavor's early years, it was recognized that "the success of this society was unprecedented as a religious youth movement." In the 1920's, Christian Endeavor had an informational emphasis of 10%, a worship emphasis of 15%, and an expressional emphasis of 75%. The members of the various Christian Endeavor groups were urged to think of new ideas and projects for the group. They were all to participate in some way at each society meeting. Everyone sang at the meetings, but they also had to have some other active part.

The society at Williston was so popular and successful that soon there were Christian Endeavor societies all over the country. In 1885, the United Society of Christian Endeavor was founded. The

society continued in its popularity and in 1927, its name was changed to the International Society of Christian Endeavor, to include Canada and Mexico. Its headquarters is at 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio.

International presidents are elected every four years and are installed at the International Conventions. The current president, who was elected in 1979, is Mr. Lavern Billig, from Greenville, Pennsylvania. The associate, or youth president is Michelle Saunders, a young girl from Washington, D.C. The International Society also has three vice-presidents; Phillip Assink from Yakima, Washington, Barbara Dority from Roanoke, Virginia, and Rev. Nathaniel Jarrett from Chicago, Illinois.

The International Society of Christian Endeavor is made up of delegates from many different cities and states in the United States, Mexico, and Canada. A few of the various states involved include Hawaii, Maine, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington, and West Virginia. Each state union consists of societies from different cities all over the state.

The West Virginia Union, of which I am an executive member, has societies in New Cumberland, Colliers, Warwood, Elm Grove, Clarksburg, Tunnelton, Anmoore, Mt. Clare, and Martinsburg. The president of West Virginia Christian Endeavor is Rev. Harold Myers, Jr. of Clarksburg. The vice-president is Donna Straight from New Cumberland. West Virginia is organized by an Executive Committee which meets four times a year to plan the annual retreats and conventions. The retreats are held at Jackson's Mill State 4-H Camp every October. The conventions rotate from New Cumberland to Wheeling to Clarksburg to Martinsburg.

Conventions are also held every two years on the international

level. The last international convention, in 1979, was held in Honolulu, Hawaii. The next convention, in 1981, will be held in Portland Maine, where it all began, to celebrate Christian Endeavor's hundredth birthday. Other international conventions have been held in Reading, Penna., Portland, Oregon, and St. Louis, Mo. These conventions are attended by people from all over the world, although they are for the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

There are also conventions held every four years on a world-wide level. The World Christian Endeavor Union consists of people from over seventy five different nations and island groups. This union was formed in 1895, only 14 years after Christian Endeavor was founded. The World Union presently has over three million members. The last world convention was held in New Delhi, India, in 1978. Its next convention will be combined with the international convention in Portland, Maine next year. The current president of the World Christian Endeavor Union is Rev. Arno Pagel of Germany.

Christian Endeavor is an interdenominational, international and interracial organization whose motto is "For Christ and the Church".

The small society that Dr. Francis E. Clark started on February 2, a Wednesday night long ago in 1881, has continually grown to include people of all nationalities and cultures. People of every color have been joined together to form one of the largest organizations in the world. Its members are united with the purpose of serving Christ and the Church. When these people meet together at their conventions, there are no barriers because of their different backgrounds. They come together to share and learn from each other and to serve and glorify God.

Amos Wells, an early worker in Christian Endeavor, wrote: "Chris-

tian Endeavor is confident that its principles and methods are so simple, so true, and so broadly based on the nature of youth and the foundations of Christianity that wherever they are understood and faithfully applied they will result in the best development of young people into successful workers for Christ and the Church."

Wells' definition of Christian Endeavor is: Christian Endeavor is a religious society consisting of young people and controlled by them with the advice of older Christians; a society consecrated to Christ, devoted to church and denomination, brotherly toward all Christians the world around, democratic, definitely purposeful, flexible and progressive, its aim being to develop the Christian character of its members and train them for Christian service.

The Christian Endeavor Pledge is signed by all members. The Pledge is: Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength, I promise Him that I will strive to do whatever He would like to have me do; that I will make it the rule of my life to pray and to read the Bible every day, and to support the work and worship of my own church in every way possible; and that just so far as I know how, throughout my whole life, I will endeavor to lead a Christian life.

Dr. Clark wrote a last message to all Endeavorers on September 26, 1916, which said, Dear Fellow Endeavorers: I beg you, in Christ's name, to hold always to the fundamental principles of Christian Endeavor; private, personal devotions, pledge loyalty to Christ and to the Church to which you belong, pledged acknowledgement of Jesus Christ in the weekly meetings, pledged service for Christ and our fellowmen in every suitable form of activity, and fellowship with all who love the Lord Jesus Christ . . . my love to every Endeavorer. May God Bless you everyone.



Julie Fields

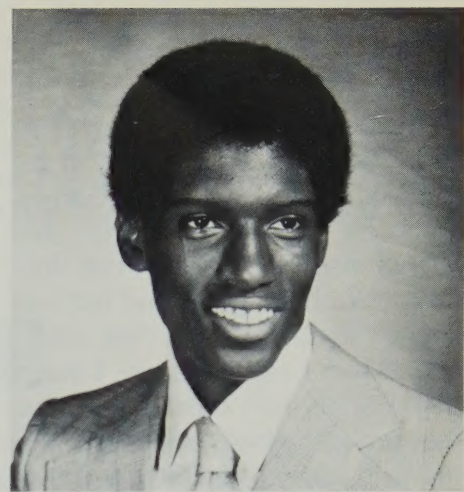
Julie Fields, the seventeen-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oreon E. Fields, New Cumberland, West Virginia, is the third place winner in the individual category of the 1981 Christian Youth Witness Program. She attends the New Cumberland Christian Church and is president of the high school Christian Endeavor society.

Julie's entry was based on her work as director of the children's junior choir, "Children of God." The choir was organized in late

1980 and the children range in age from 4 to 12 with 25 juniors participating. They have sung at different places and for various occasions and events. She says of the group, "they are at an impressionable age and I am doing my best to let them know Christ and His love for them. They see Christ through my actions, my words, and the words they sing.

The Sunday after the American hostages were released from Iran, they sang "My Country 'Tis of Thee" during the Sunday evening service. The girls wore yellow ribbons in their hair and the boys wore them on their shirts.

In a Spring 1981 recital the children sang solos, duets, and quartets. Julie states: "They love to sing for the Lord and the Lord has blessed me richly this year. The children are a blessing and a challenge to me. It is my responsibility to lead the children to Christ, for Matthew 19:14 states: 'Suffer the little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.' "



Artis Damien Dubose

Artis Damien Dubose, is the 17 year old foster son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Fowler, member of the Youth Encounter Christian Endeavor Society, First Baptist Church of Georgetown, Washington, D.C. He is the fourth place winner in the individual category of the 1981 Christian Youth Witness program. His message "Young Christians Daring to be a Witness" was delivered in the morning worship service on Youth Sunday, January 25, 1981.

YOUNG CHRISTIANS

I wish to direct your attention to verses 13 and 14 of the 24th chapter of the Gospel recorded by Saint Matthew.

"But he who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, as a testimony to all nations; and then the end will come."

This says to us young Christians of today that we should hold to God's hand no matter what our task may be. When I say young Christians, I understand that everyone in this church today is young in Christ, whether you be one year old or one hundred years old. However, I wish to direct my remarks mainly to the youth and

young adults. We must become rooted more deeply in the word than were our parents. I say this because we are the future parents of tomorrow and if we don't make a commitment to God now while we are young we may never do so. When we each leave our several homes each morning we don't know what is waiting around the corner, but we must be ready with the sword of salvation drawn and ready to fight. If we are real Christians, we should be able to say no to any temptation that comes our way. We, as young Christians, should be witnesses in all that we do. Looking at Revelations 2:10 which says "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: be-

hold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." This tells all of us that the devil is waiting for a chance to catch us off guard so he can step in and win our souls. This is also a good reason for us to study God's word to a full understanding. How can we as Christians sit down and watch someone do something wrong and not say a word to them? We must get to work and not sit back waiting for someone to push us. We should not have to wait until we are called upon before we do the Lord's work, but we should gladly volunteer our services. We

should remember what we have been taught about God and His son Jesus. We should show our friends to Christ by the way we live every day. If we are going to be Christians, we should trust God as much as we trust ourselves. We should also take God on His Holy Word. We have got to get out and witness to others about their salvation. When I say salvation, I mean deliverance from destruction. You may wonder where salvation comes from. David testifies in Psalm 62:1 "Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from Him cometh my salvation." If we will wait upon the Lord to save us, He will cleanse our souls and give us salvation. If we want to keep our salvation we should do something to keep it. We should get on the ball for Christ. We should join the Christian Jubilee and leave the world alone. When we are at home we don't want to do anything but play the radio or hi fi, talk on the telephone or look at television. What do we play? Not religious music. What do we talk about? Not about God. What do we look at on television? Nothing Christian. Let's look at our forefathers who worked in the fields all day long. They had no shoes to wear, no cars to drive down to the warehouse, town store or barn. We have all these things and more. We can't go to the corner store without jumping into our cars. You may not understand how our forefathers worked out in the fields all day and had strength to go to church. You may not know how they could take their masters' beating them because they said something about God. You may not be able to see how they could sing praises to God when they were treated like dogs. Maybe you don't understand, but thank God now, I can see as I never saw before. They loved their God. I wonder if we really love Him as much as they did. I wonder why can't we praise God when something goes

wrong. We are at the age now that we are able to praise God no matter what. I am sure you have heard your parents praise God for the smallest things as well as the greatest. If you have not, then you should start and maybe they will follow your lead. I am sure you have heard parents talk about the good things God has done for them. We must get out and tell our friends that God has done great things for us. We should be able to sing and praise God as our parents do. I know all of us want to go to heaven, but we won't do anything to get there. How can we ever get to heaven if we do not obey God's word. We should plan to do something for God every day. As I looked at Romans 1:9 which says "For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers." Like Paul, we too must live for God and believe in Him and truly He will be our witness for as long as we shall live. I also look at young people as I go to different places and see just how they serve God. Some of the young people that I see serve God in song. Some in praying and testimonies. This is good but they must also be witnesses for Him. You should be willing to do these for Him. You know, He sent His Son to die on the cross for our sins. You know how bad your sins are, and I know how bad mine are. We walk around with our heads up high as if the world owes us something. We are dead wrong. The world owes us nothing. I do not know how we can say God owes us a favor when He has already given us His best, His Son Jesus and the gift of eternal life. We should turn our old ways over and let Him work His perfect will in our lives. I wonder how many of us would give up a luxury or something for God. He has given up plenty for us. I look back at my life as it was in the beginning. No one

wanted me. I was abandoned because of my grandmother. I look back at how the Lord sent a message to two women about me and what had happened. I think about how much red tape they went through to get me adopted. After a while I became the son of one of those ladies. This was my true mother, because she loved me as only a mother could. I remember how anxious she was to correct my physical handicaps. I remember how she taught me to be polite. I can remember my eighth grade year when I was smoking and stealing and how I could not go to school because of my classmates threatening me. I still remember the trouble my Uncle Jerome went through to get me in Catholic School so I could repeat the eighth grade. At this time I was about 14 going on 41. I stayed out as long as I wanted because I was going with this girl I really liked. That was stopped by the Lord. I can remember when my mother was hospitalized and I had to stay one place I did not want to — the Fowler home. The rules there were strict. I was hoping my mother would get well soon, but she didn't. Now I knew how much I really loved her, but it was too late, because she passed. I did not want to stay with that family because I thought they were crazy. They walked around the house talking about God and what He had done and giving Him thanks. I was determined to have my way. I tried to make them hate me, but they would not, no matter what I did. They all showed me how they loved me in their own ways. Before I knew what hit me I had a father, a second mother, a sister and a brother and even grandmothers who liked to spoil me. I accepted the Lord after that. I was not planning on being here today, because when my mother died I was also ready to die. I was told I could not stop living, because this was my chance to show her how I really loved her.

God does not want us to change ourselves. He knows we can't, but Jesus can. Ask Jesus to come into your heart and save you from your sins and be your personal Lord and Saviour. "For whosoever shall

call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). I want to leave this thought with you.

"Everything must change, nothing stays the same, everyone must change because no one stays the

same. The young become the old and mysteries do unfold. That's the way of time, nothing and no one goes unchanged. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God shall stand forever."

GOD IS LOVE

Oliver Kirna, 17 year old Junior at Great Neck South High School is the fifth place winner in the 1981 Christian Youth Witness Program in the individual category. The sermon "God is Love" was delivered in the Community Church, Little Neck, New York on Christian Endeavor Sunday, February 8, 1981. Oliver is the president of his Christian Endeavor Society.

Love is a key idea and major focus of the Christian faith. Although it is crucial to Christian belief, love is not easy to define. It may mean the passionate feeling existing between a man and a woman, or the affection and fellowship of the family. In scriptural terms, love may mean God's love for mankind in the sense of pity and feeling for someone in need of help. In this last sense, Israel (the Jewish nation during much of the Old Testament period) viewed God's love as being spontaneous in its origin and showered on an undeserving people. God's love for Israel was not, and could not be, earned; but they believed simply and deeply that love was the way and the very nature of God.

God's love is moral and demands righteousness and allegiance. The Old Testament shows a clear belief that God's love is in deadly earnest and may be severe, but that his severity is never separated from his tenderness. In the Old Testament man's love for God and his fellow human beings is based on God's prior love for him; his response to God must be

of gratitude. Love directed to God is shown by keeping his commandments, serving him, and walking in his ways. Man's love for his fellow men is seen as a duty before God.

In the New Testament it is Jesus that reveals God's love by what he says, does, and is. The classic statement of man's duty to love is contained in Mark, chapter 12, verses 28 to 33, where a teacher of the law overheard a discussion in which Jesus had given the Saducees a stumping answer, and silenced them. So the Pharisee came to Jesus with a question, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" Jesus answered, "Listen Israel! The Lord our God is the only Lord. You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second most important commandment is this: You must love your fellowman as yourself. There is no other commandment more important than these two."

Now consider one of the most difficult principles for a Christian person to follow. Jesus said, "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you. If anyone hits you on one cheek, let him hit the other one too; if someone takes your coat, let him have your shirt as well. Give to everyone who asks you for something, and when someone takes what is yours, do not ask for it back. Do for others just what you would want them to do for you. Love your enemies as you love the

people who love you; lend and expect nothing in return. You will have a great reward from your father in heaven." To a great degree, Jesus is teaching us to give freely and especially not to expect anything in return.

For one thing we can trust the love of God. We can hold with Paul that "Neither life nor death, nor things present, nor things to come, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." The cross was the test of this. There sin and death did their best, but victory remained with love.

Paul lived and risked and suffered as no other follower of Jesus Christ has done. He towers over the centuries as the greatest of all apostles. Why did he embark on his restless turbulent career of preaching the gospel and establishing the church?" The Love of Christ controls us," he cried — not our love for Christ, but His love for us. This is the powerful motive.

Let us consider the cross as a revelation of God's love. At Calvary as nowhere else the existence of something evil was laid bare. The Crucifixion of Jesus was not the deed of wicked men but of men like ourselves. We let ourselves off too easily if we think of them as monsters of wickedness. There was nothing unusual or abnormal about them or their attitudes. The hostility of the priests, the perversion of justice by Pilate, the treachery of Judas, the lack of interest of the public — those are ordinary, everyday atti-

tudes found in all ruling classes and in all religious communities. We see them poisoning human relationships in every age, and if we are honest we see them in ourselves. "Jesus Christ," the Apostle Peter wrote "his own self bore our sins in his own body on the cross." Not ours, surely? It happened long before our time. How could he have borne our sins in his own body? Yet he did. For the sins that nailed him to the cross were our sins. At Calvary they were enacted by others, but they were our sins nonetheless, rooted in our own lives, working themselves out in society, the same old, unchanging sins of intrigue, hatred, self-interest, worldliness, materialism, and unbelief. The cross of Christ has a contemporary significance. It is an epitome of human history in century after century. The thing that has to be said about the world in which we live is that it is always the kind of world in which Jesus is crucified.

That, however, is not all there is to say. It is true, but it is not the whole truth nor the decisive and final truth. The cross is a revelation of the love of God as well as of the sin of man. On what grounds can such a contradicting claim be made? Exactly the opposite would seem to be the case. It might reasonably be maintained, — if there is a God, A God of love, how could He have allowed such a dreadful thing to happen?

In one of Dostoevsky's novels a character looking at a picture of the Crucifixion exclaims, "Don't you know a man might lose his faith by looking at that picture?" In the Old Testament we read about people whose faith in God was shaken by the suffering of the good and the triumph of the forces of evil. There was nothing of that feeling among the early Christians. Why? Not only because the cross had for its sequel the Resurrection but because of the light in which they came to view it and the redemptive

meaning they attached to it. Jesus for them was the great interpreter of God. To see Him was to see the Father. He was the word made flesh. He came to proclaim, to demonstrate, to exhibit the love of God. This He did in His life and teaching but supremely on the cross. It was his love of men and women that took Him there and in His death as nowhere else the very heart of the Eternal is revealed.

Inscribed upon the Cross we see in shining letters 'God is Love'. This is fundamental in the New Testament. The Love of God and the Love of Jesus are one and the same. "God" says the Apostle Paul, "shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." And again, "God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself." "God," says the Apostle John, "so loved the world that he gave His only begotten son, so that in Him we may have everlasting life." And again, "In this is love not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His son to be the saviour for our sins."

In the New Testament, an elder (John) is writing to the church and he claims that we must love one another because love comes from God. Whoever loves is a child and follower of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is Love. God shared his love by sending his son to save us.

I have experienced God's love truly when last summer I was asked to go to a religious camp in northern Ontario in Canada with my brother. My brother wasn't able to go. So, I decided to go alone and spend the week there. The first three days were rainy and cold but the fourth day was beautiful and sunny. On that day, in the first volleyball game, I had the misfortune of spraining my ankle. This occurred just before the group was going water skiing and swimming at the lake. I stayed behind and prayed that my foot might get bet-

ter. The next day I was hopping around and I tried to play in the softball game. Soon enough, I started to run around easily and I felt that my foot was better. I was finally able to make it to homeplate and not have to stop at third base.

That evening at the bonfire, we sang songs and had young people stand up and give a testimony if they really had some thought burning inside of them. I thanked the Lord that night and I gave my own personal testimony on how the Lord had come into my life and spread his love on me. After the bonfire, I assembled in a prayer circle with some close and very nice friends where I had the memorable experience again to share God's love.

Have you ever truly experienced God's love?

So then, the Love, therefore, with which we are to love one another is actually the divine love itself poured into us and overflowing into the lives of others as an extension of God's love for us. Paul helps us see this particular meaning of love in Romans, chapter 5 verse 5, where he speaks of God's love being poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us, and in Romans, chapter 5 verse 8, which says that the voluntary death of Christ shows God's love for us. The great commission for the Christian, then, is to love — first to return God's freely given love, and then to love in mercy and graciousness toward his fellow man.

In a concluding thought, I would like to say this lovely poem:

O Christ, Love's victim, hanging high,
Upon the cruel tree.
What worthy recompense can I make,
Mine own Christ to thee?
My sweat and labor from this day,
My sole life let it be;
To love Thee aye the best I may
And die for love of Thee.

SOCIETY WINNERS



North Liberty Juniors receive award from President Lavern Billig

First place winner in the society category of the 1981 Christian Youth Witness program was the Junior Christian Endeavor Society of North Liberty United Presbyterian Church, Grove City, Pennsylvania, with an award of \$150 in cash plus a grant of \$150 for the expenses of one or more youth representatives to attend the Festival of Hope Christian Endeavor Convention in Portland, Maine, August 12-16, 1981. Mrs. Allen W. McClymonds is the society sponsor and Rev. Jerry A. Mahaffey is the Pastor.

To win the top spot, the society established and achieved the following goals in their year long witness project.

GOALS ESTABLISHED

- A. To serve Christ and the Church
- B. To show love and concern to others.
- C. To witness to others abouts Christ.

GOALS ACHIEVED

- A. To serve Christ and the Church
 - 1. by participating in an Easter Sunrise Service
 - 2. by singing in County Convention Youth Choir
 - 3. by providing special music for worship service
 - 4. by taking part in Centennial Program for local Church
 - 5. by presenting a Jesus Walk worship experience
 - 6. by decorating Church Social Room for Thanksgiving Dinner
 - 7. by serving as acolytes for worship service
 - 8. by presenting devotions for Children's Department during Youth Week
- B. To show love and concern for others
 - 1. by sending a gift of money to Rev. Pagley's Car Fund
 - 2. by sponsoring an American Indian Child

- 3. by adopting a Senior Citizen as our Grand-mother
- 4. by participating in a flag raising ceremony in honor of American hostages
- 5. by sending money for food to Care Program
- 6. by caroling for shut-ins
- 7. by collecting money for Children's Hospital, Pittsburgh
- C. To witness to others about Jesus Christ
 - 1. by presenting radio spot announcements
 - 2. by giving Scriptures through Bible-a-Month Club
 - 3. by arranging a window display for Youth Week

Margaret E. Patterson, clerk of session at North Liberty United Presbyterian Church wrote of the society's witness projects, "The session of your church would like to commend you on all of your

activities and particularly in the celebration of Christian Endeavor's 100th birthday.

"We understand you had a window display as part of the celebration, and that you won first place with your entry in the birthday cake contest at the county observance. We know you are actively engaged not only in church and local community projects, but also in the mission field.

"May God bless you as you work for the coming of His Kingdom, and may you all feel contentment and peace in His service."

Dorothy Greene of Twin Wells, Arizona, wrote concerning Ernie Ranger, the American Indian boy the society adopted, "Ernie was very happy for the cute little hot wheels car that you sent for him. I am sending his letter of thanks for it, and the card. You are so good to remember."

Ernie's note said, "I want to tell you about my Christmas. We had a program here. I sang in it. We told the Christmas story. I wish you were there. I am glad you help me at Twin Wells. The card looks good I like the car. It is fun to play with. We have good times here."

Mrs. McClymonds, the sponsor, writes of the Jesus Walk, "We desired to give witness to our love for Christ and our faith in Him by preparing and presenting the program for the Learner's Fellowship Sunday School Class and any members of our church who wished to join us. We were asked to repeat the program another Sunday for the Senior High School class.

"We selected events in the life of Christ, chose appropriate places in our community near the church for the different scenes, made signs for each station, and recorded the program on tape, which our leader played at each station.

"Members were dressed in costumes of Biblical times. Pictures of the various stations are enclosed in our scrapbook."

Second place winner in this year's society competition is the Youth Christian Endeavor Group of Mt. Pinson Presbyterian Church, Pinson, Alabama. Alice Grady and Sara Tyler are the sponsors and Rev. Don Grady is the pastor. Here is a summary of their projects from April 1980 through February 1981.

ONGOING PROJECTS (Second year):

1. CHALKVILLE CAMPUS, Division of Youth Services — Christian witness program on a monthly or bi-monthly basis depending on resident activities. Second annual Christmas party for 95 of the youth.
2. ESTES HEALTH CARE CENTER (Nursing Home) — bi-monthly devotional service and visits to residents.
3. LIVE NATIVITY SCENE — outside the Church three evenings before Christmas to emphasize the true meaning of Christmas.

NEW PROJECTS:

1. GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP — taken by four members of the group and the Pastor. Dale Bailey, Michelle Coates, Donnie Grady and Sharen Millar received first-hand information about Christian mission away from home; they helped paint a church and classrooms at the Quiche Bible Institute, participated in bi-lingual church services, distributed Spanish tracts, and stayed overnight with Mam Indian families. The entire Christian Endeavor Group back home helped by donating \$60.00 to help buy paint for the work projects.
2. SOFTBALL TEAM — first time in several years that young men in the group participated. Though their win record was not very impressive, they received a beautiful trophy for Sportsmanship. Their words and actions were a Christian testimony in a non-church league.

3. FATHER'S DAY PROGRAM — presented by the Christian Endeavor Group at the evening worship service on Father's Day.
4. VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL — five members of the Christian Endeavor Group worked as teachers or helpers at Vacation Bible School. They were John Alford, Susan Baird, Michelle Coates, Donnie Grady and Sharen Millar. Most of the youth attended special Bible School sessions for them in the evening.
5. RED HILL CEMETERY — site of the original Mt. Pinson Presbyterian Church (1875), the cemetery had been in disrepair for many years. The Red Hill Cemetery Committee has been formed to help restore it. The Christian Endeavor group helped by building steps up the hill.
6. PEW PAINTING PARTY — this unique clean-up campaign was devised as a practical way to celebrate the 105th anniversary of the Church. Many members of the Youth Christian Endeavor Group participated by moving furniture, shampooing carpets, repairing and painting pews.

SPECIFIC CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR PROJECTS:

1. CAMP WINNATASKA—Spring Retreat Members of the group participated in the 1980 Christian Endeavor Retreat. *The Youth Christian Endeavor Group at Pinson is in charge of planning the 1981 Retreat* and has been busy since before Christmas. It was held May 1 and 2 with a local speaker and out-of-town guest Harold E. Westerhoff.
2. CAMP CHULA VISTA—Christian Endeavor Summer Camp. The 90th annual Alabama Christian Endeavor Camp was held August 11-16 with the

theme, "God's Marathon." 27 people from the church attended as campers or helpers. Two from the Youth Group were counselors (David Hinkle and Sharen Millar). Another member, John Alford, was named *Alabama Christian Endeavorer of the Year* at Camp.

3. MONTREAT — Southern Regional Christian Endeavor Conference in North Carolina, October 31 to November 2, 1980.
4. BIRTHDAY PARTY — Christian Endeavor's 100th Birthday was celebrated in a number of ways by the Mt. Pinson Church and Youth Christian Endeavor Group. Announcements were placed in the newspapers, church bulletins, and letters written to the Office of the Postmaster General suggesting the issuance of a commemorative stamp to honor Dr. Francis E. Clark. The Youth Christian Endeavor Group helped to plan the special Birthday Party held at the Rock School in Pinson on January 31, 1981, which was well attended by Christian Endeavorers from all over Alabama.

FUND-RAISING PROJECTS:

A group of only 15 active members needs support from others in the church if it is to have successful fund-raising activities. The Youth Christian Endeavor Group is very grateful to the adults of the church who always help and support their endeavors.

Fund-raising activities included a Fish Fry, Chili Supper, Yard Sale, Car Washes, and a Spaghetti Supper. The most unique and ongoing project, however, was the *JOB SQUAD*. Members of the Christian Endeavor Group were available to do odd jobs for church members who would in turn pay the Youth Christian Endeavor treasury instead of the individual

worker. Jobs included grass-cutting, baby-sitting, polishing silver, cleaning out a creek-bed, housework, and paint-and-repair projects. All the money brought into the treasury from the Job Squad was designated to send young people to Christian Endeavor Camp. It was decided to keep a log of the hours each group member worked which was credited to them for payment of their way to camp. The group raised \$895 to send youth to camp.

Third place in the society competition for 1981 goes to the Senior High Christian Endeavor Group of First Presbyterian Church, Lakewood, New Jersey for several projects completed throughout the year. Mrs. Helen Malnar is the sponsor and Rev. Thomas A. Sebben is the Pastor.

The young people observed a swastika spray painted on the wall of the Congregation Sons of Israel Synagogue in the spring of 1980. Vandals scrawled the sign on the front of the synagogue directly beneath the words "Enter His gates with thanksgiving."

The youth spoke with their advisors and asked if they could help in any way. Rabbi Levovitz was contacted and the clean-up work began the first week in April. It took the group of 18 students several days to fully cover the stubborn spray paint used by the vandals.

Also during the year the Lakewood Christian Endeavor Youth assisted in cleaning out a church belonging to the Open Door Bible School which had burned and needed to be rebuilt. They passed out Bibles in a local shopping center, went Christmas caroling in the local hospital and nursing homes, and observed Christian Endeavor's 100th birthday by holding an alumni reunion for all Christian Endeavor members, past and present, with a special evening service conducted by the youth.

The fourth place winner in the

1981 Christian Youth Witness Program is the Christian Endeavor Society of the Northport Christian Church in Newport, Tennessee. Lynn McKnight is the group sponsor. Their stamp collecting project was a missionary venture to supply food for children in the Orient.

The Christian Endeavorers of the Northport Christian Church have become philatelists (stamp collectors) for the advancement of the Lord's Kingdom. And by becoming stamp collectors, the young people in turn have become active missionaries, communicating, sharing and working with persons in foreign fields.

Beginning in early summer of 1980, the Christian Endeavorers began saving stamps off letters that they received at home. This soon became a bit discouraging as most of the young people did not receive much mail at their home addresses. Since most of the young people were working in Gatlinburg at resort motels during the summer, they decided that there must be a lot of incoming mail, and they would request that the envelopes be saved. Most of the motels were very willing to cooperate and began saving envelopes, complete with postage stamps. Each Wednesday night, Sunday morning and Sunday evening the young people brought in large boxes, sacks and handfuls of envelopes. Other businesses and individuals were enlisted and the "savers" grew steadily.

Some Christian Endeavor meetings found the members sorting and cutting stamps. The cutting and sorting doesn't sound complicated, but each stamp was uniformly cut from the envelopes with a small portion of envelope border. After the stamps were trimmed, they were then counted.

Two hundred twenty cancelled postage stamps is what the Salvation Army, the point of exchange, required to feed one person for one day. The stamps were pack-



Northport youth collected stamps

7,000 stamps to the Salvation Army headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky. This represents food supplies for 31 days, the efforts of 35 businesses and individuals and 8 months of work. This represents the needs of missionaries supplied for a little longer — a little more time to share the Gospel because of physical needs being supplied.

The three runners-up in the society category were the Christian Endeavor Society, Woodstock Dutch Reformed Church, Woodstock, New York, Mrs. Dorothy Haeussler, sponsor; The Lakes Community Chapel Christian Endeavor Society, Lake Pine, New Jersey, Lori and David Russell, sponsors; and Church of the Redeemer Junior and Senior High Christian Endeavor Society, Royal Oak, Michigan, Mr. and Mrs. John Ball, sponsors.

The Woodstock Society planned and served an oriental dinner with the assistance of two Vietnamese refugee families on May 4, 1980. The World Vision film "Escape to Nowhere" was shown and approximately \$400 was sent to World Vision to help the *Boat People*.

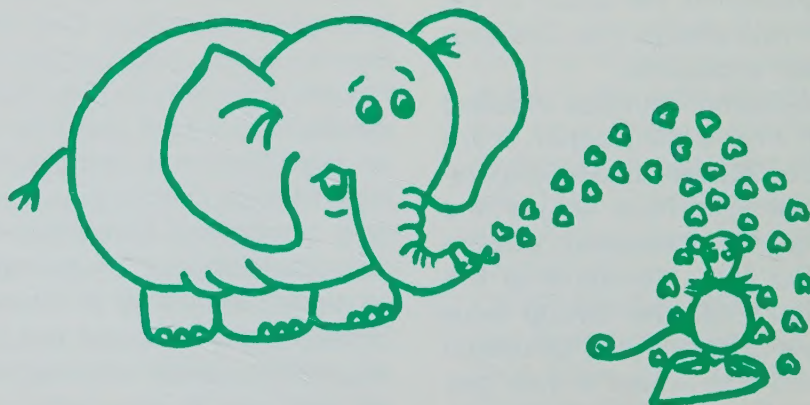
The Lake Pine Society conducted a year long outreach program to the Mt. Laurel Nursing Home in Mt. Laurel, New Jersey. Each week the Society visited the nursing home to sing, pray, share a message and witness to the elderly. The sponsors write, "the elderly of Mt. Laurel Nursing Home learned of the eternal gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, love of fellow Christians and that there is no generation gap in Christian Endeavor. The Endeavorers received a blessing, their love given and returned, a better understanding of what real love is and the joy of giving so that others might receive the love of Jesus."

The Royal Oak group designed and printed greeting, friendship and encouragement cards with the help of Mr. and Mrs. John Ball, their sponsors. The cards had clever drawings with appropriate Bible verses. The cards were boxed and sold with a leaflet describing the project as well as explaining the way of salvation. Of the project the group writes, "Our cards gave us a reason to share Jesus Christ."

aged so that when forwarded to the Salvation Army, the stamps would be pre-counted and ready for instant translation into funds for food. The enthusiasm grew as each person realized that with two hundred twenty stamps, this was a contact with an individual on a one-to-one basis, on a personal basis that could bring this lost soul to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Newspaper coverage was considered, and it was decided to take advantage of the media. This would inform concerned persons, who could assist in stamp collecting, of our needs. This would inform the public of the interest in missionary work through a young person's perspective. The stamp collecting was given newspaper coverage.

The Christian Endeavor Society collected, sorted, cut and packaged and forwarded approximately



Let the love of God shower down on you.

The President's Corner

by Lavern Billig



In the play *South Pacific* these words are in one of the songs: "I'm stuck like a dope, with a thing called hope, I can't get it out of my heart." I can't get hope out of my heart either — nor do I want to. Hope is one of the most encouraging words in the English language. It is a word every Christian should have with him at all times. The Bible puts much emphasis on hope. Psalm 71:5a says, "O Lord, you alone are my hope." In Jeremiah 17:7 we read these words, "But blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord and has made the Lord his hope and confidence."

We need to keep hope in our heart. It is better to hope than to despair. The Psalmist tells us, "Why be discouraged and sad? Hope in God!" When I was in Guatemala at the Area I Conference a year ago there was a sign in the hallway of our hotel. The words were changed every few days. One day the following words were on that sign: "Don't become discouraged with the eternal struggles between the forces of good and those of evil. The last page of the Bible says that in the end God wins." The Christians of Guatemala have big problems and yet we discovered they are a people of hope and not of despair.

We came into the centennial year of Christian Endeavor with the theme, *Jesus Christ Our Hope*.

The event which challenged so many of us this year was the *Festival of Hope* Convention in Portland, Maine. We launched out into the second century of Christian Endeavor under the banner, *Hope through Christ*.

Hope! I can't get it out of my heart. Hope! Is it in your heart today?

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and
righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

When darkness veils His lovely
face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the vale.

His oath, His covenant, His blood,
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.

When He shall come with trumpet
sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found;
Dressed in His righteousness
alone,
Faultless to stand before the
throne.

Chorus
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

Edward Mote

Scotland 82

Join Christian Endeavor's International Fellowship Tour and spend your vacation in Scotland, Ireland, and England July 31-August 14, 1982.

THE TOUR WILL INCLUDE:

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In the Glasgow Area — Travel north along the bonnie banks of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs and west to Largs on the Ayrshire Coast facing the islands of Arran, Bute, and Cumbrae.

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